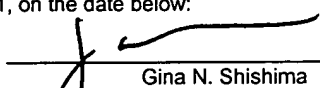


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date below:	
February 20, 2003 Date	 Gina N. Shishima

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Xiang et al.

Serial No.: 09/828,498

Filed: April 5, 2001

For: FULL-LENGTH GB VIRUS C  
(HEPATITIS G VIRUS) RNA  
TRANSCRIPTS ARE INFECTIOUS IN  
PRIMARY CD4 POSITIVE T CELLS  
AND METHODS OF TREATING HIV

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Winkler, Ulrike

Atty. Dkt. No.: IOWA:030US

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2002**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Commissioner:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2002 for which the three-month date for response is February 20, 2003.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. Account No.: 50-1212/IOWA:030US.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.